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جوائے الصول
گورندوور
ہوگرکت پر
شرح بیان
ہیں گور
راضی ہوا
آگوراک
کو انیس
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اور دیوں
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SUPPLEMENT TO THE NÚR A FSHÁN

VOL. 2.

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No. 25

Editorial.

NEWS AND NOTES.

For four or five years, a debt has been carried forward each year by the American Presbyterian Board. It is a cause for rejoicing to those connected with this Board to know that the entire debt has been wiped out. Though it has not been possible to increase the appropriations this year as those on the field had hoped, yet entire freedom from debt gives us encouragement to hope that in future years provision will be made for the natural increase of our work.

The most recent news from Rev. J. C. R. Ewing D. D. is that he with Mrs. Ewing and their youngest daughter will sail for India from New York about the first of September.

A contributed article this week on the question of Self-support seems to defend foreign Missionaries against those who think that in many places their special work is done.

The article gives the impression that its chief purpose is perhaps not so much the defense of Missionaries as an attack upon the theories of fellow Indian Christians. On the principle that truth is best subserved by a free exchange of views we give space to the article in question.

The Examinations to be given by the India Sunday School Union will be held on July 23rd from 7—10 a.m. Seniors, Juniors, Teachers, and those who cannot write are all provided for. We trust those in charge of S. Ss. in the Punjab will see that the names of pupils are sent in promptly.

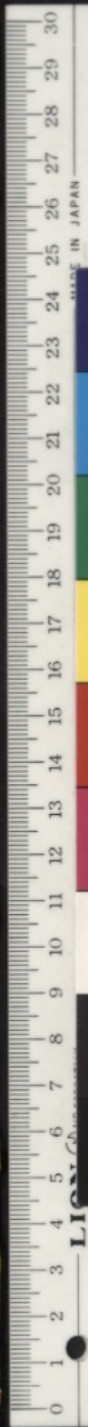
Eternity takes cognizance of but one element in human life, viz: character. The Kingdom of God, whose foundations are laid in eternity makes character the supreme test of admission. The character of God is His glory; the glory of God is His character. There is no glory for man apart from character. Character is every thing; nothing else really matters. Man's chief end is therefore to build character. In this way alone can he glorify the God whose character is His glory and so fulfil the definition of the Westminster Catechism, "Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever."

THE HUMAN SOUL IS INSTINCTIVELY CHRISTIAN.

It is a commonly known saying amongst Mohammedans that every man

is born a Muslim, inasmuch as he is born a believer in the unity of God! This is also what a denier of the Supernatural faith, a natural man would say. And there is some truth in it, but it is an exceedingly small item of truth compared with the whole truth. In the blindness which characterises those who look only at one side of the truth and which in religious conceits characterises the Mohammedan world, the Mohammedans will strenuously oppose and refuse to admit the whole truth when it is presented to them.

This is what a Christian writer said seventeen centuries ago and what every true Christian has always believed:—every soul is instinctively Christian. Oh that the admirers of Natural Religion would see that in the History of Practical Religion men's minds have been occupied not so much with the Oneness of the Godhead as with the incalculably more vital question of Sin and Salvation. Unity or rather Unification has been the desire of all mankind, but those who have seen nothing more than this have proved to be a complete failure. The History of the various schools of Grecian Philosophy bears a remarkable testimony to this. Some wanted to allay their soul's thirst by reducing everything to the One Principle of Numbers, others to that of Matter others again to that of Mind, but what a miserably poor substitute for the real water of life did all these means



prove to be. And when man found not God by wisdom, it pleased God to reveal Himself by the foolishness of the preaching of the Cross. What is it that the human soul yearns after—what is it that it hungers and thirsts for—what is it that it always needs but unfortunately often forgets what it needs? It is Pardon. It is Peace. It is Unification. And these are only other names for Christ. Oh, the history of human thought, human life, human religion is full of facts that bear more than abundant testimony to the truth that "The human soul is instinctively Christian"—and though reason may deny sin and religion declare it impossible, the heart knows its own bitterness, acknowledges its transgressions and ever there has risen from the heart the well-known cry, "God, be merciful to me a sinner."

R. S. D.

Dr. W. W. White, just before sailing for America gave a Bible Reading in Bombay on the subject of Prayer. The same subject was dealt with in the Lahore Convention last winter. The *Bombay Guardian* gives full notes of this valuable Bible Reading and we deem it worthy of the perusal of our readers.

AVAILING PRAYER.

NOTES OF A BIBLE READING

BY DR. W. W. WHITE.

Dr. White began by remarking that people sometimes contrasted the Epistles of Romans and James as if they were antagonistic, one being of faith, the other of works; but a closer study would show that Paul and James were not face to face fighting each other, but back to back fighting the common enemy.

James was certainly a very practical writer, but not more so than Paul in the twelfth chapter of Romans. Nothing could be more practical than that. Although there is much so-

called prayer that is not practical, yet real prayer is intensely practical.

In the epistle of James there are three allusions to prayer which throw great light on the subject, viz: James i. 5; iv. 3; and v. 13-16. Of the last, "The supplication of a righteous man availeth much in its working" (A. V.), there are just five words in the Greek, three of which deal with the "availing of prayer."

There are several theories abroad with regard to prayer; but only two of these are worth consideration, the most popular being the

MORAL INFLUENCE THEORY.

The idea being that all the benefit obtained by prayer is that it helps the person who prays, exerts a sort of reflex influence upon him and brings him into contact with God. Like a man in a small skiff attached by a rope to a large boat, by pulling the rope he brings himself under the shadow of the larger vessel; so man by prayer pulls himself under the shadow and protection of the Almighty.

This is good as far as it goes. Prayer is intended to have a reflex influence and it does benefit those who pray. But it does something else. Prayer is appointed as a means to receive blessings not otherwise bestowed. Prayer should be offered as a farmer sows his seed, with a definite expectation of harvest.

Prayer is a definite relation of means to an end. If the means be not used the end will not be accomplished. If Moses had not prayed, the Israelites would have been destroyed. Elijah's prayer caused the withholding of rain, and also caused the rain to come.

The thought that "Your Heavenly Father knoweth the things ye have need of before ye ask," is not given to deter us from asking, or to lead us to expect that we shall get blessings we do not ask for, but to show the superiority of our God to the gods of the heathen. We receive many

blessings apart from prayer, but others connected only and always with prayer.

Prayer originates with God. He sends us commands such as telling us to ask for the Holy Spirit, which He is ready to send, to teach us to pray. Prayer goes up from man to God. God sends the answer, man responds in thanksgiving, and God again replies with a promise. Thus the electric line is laid clear through from God to man and back again. It is moved by the Spirit and never stopped, except by man. If His commands so act in us we become changed—our life is changed. Thus the soul is brought into right relationship with God. If we are right in our relationship to God in prayer, we are right on most other subjects. It is the secret of influence with man, the secret of influence with God.

THERE ARE SIX CHARACTERISTICS of availing prayer.

1st. *It presents a need.* Paul prayed along the line of God's thoughts for the world. Find out what God is working out, and pray on that line. Prayers for things not needed are not answered.

2nd. *Present the need earnestly.* Put your heart into your prayer. There should be travail of soul.

3rd. *Pray according to the will of God.* Prayer has to do with the knowable will of God, not the unknowable. There are three ways of knowing the will of God. By Providence, by the Holy Spirit, and by the written Word.

4th. *In Faith.* To believe is to accept as true a statement of another person. Belief is regulated by the will and not by the intellect. God says He will give the Holy Spirit if we ask. Receiving does not depend on feeling, that will come after; we must take God at His word. Prayer is asking plus receiving.

5th. *For the Glory of God.* One reason our prayers are not answered is that we do not bear this in mind.

If we are seeking our own glory in ever so small a degree, we shall have an unsatisfactory prayer experience. Man was created for the glory of God and should make His glory his chief delight. He will take care of our glory.

6th. *In Jesus' Name.* In the Gospel of John Jesus uses the expression, "in My Name" five times. Praying in the Name of Jesus does not simply mean to say, "for Jesus' sake, Amen." But to realise that it is only through Jesus that we have access to the Father, to realise our oneness with Him, in His nature, His life, and His love. Then we shall have a satisfactory prayer experience.

In short, "the energised prayer of a man of rectified life is a mighty force," as James v. 16 has been translated. There are about fifteen modern terms used nowadays for the Christian living in communion with his God: 'The higher life,' 'the Spirit-filled life,' 'the consecrated life,' 'the Christ-controlled life,' &c., &c., but the speaker thought all was comprised in the term a 'healthy Christian life.' If we are living such a healthy life, the bandages will be off our eyes and we shall see things as God sees them, and shall keep the communication between our souls and Himself always open. But a little thing will sometimes come between, and we must search it out. Sometime ago the apparatus in his house for electric bells newly laid down would not work. A larger battery was used but still no result. Then the man who was making the installation said he must take it all down and examine the wires to see what was wrong, and he had not got far before he found that a tack which attached the wire to the wall in the basement had been carelessly driven in, and had severed the silk covering of the wire, and the connection was thus destroyed, violating the laws of electricity. In the same way some careless act on our part may violate the law of prayer, and destroy our communication with God. Are we willing to get down in the basement, find out that tack, and pull it out?

Contributed.

[Is it time for the Foreign Missionaries to leave their Mission in India:—]

The advocates of 'Self-support,' with all their might and main put forth that the time has come for our Foreign Missionaries to retreat from

the Mission Field and leave the arena in the hands of Indian Christians. For the following reasons I differ from the advocates of the Self-supporting question:—Firstly. Such advocates, to my mind, have forgotten the history of their own country—India. That Indians, as a matter of fact, cannot manage their own affairs is clearly proved from the annals of our own country. From the very beginning India has been under the yoke of foreign sway.

Experience clearly shows that whenever Indians and especially Native Christians are left to manage their own affairs, the issue is dissension, strife, and jealousy. One man cannot see another prosper but will do his best to injure him. When such is the state of Indian Christians, I think it is the height of folly to uphold this cause. Secondly. Such advocates, in my opinion, are over-wise in their own conceit. Once I asked a native Missionary, an upholder of the Self-supporting question, about the state of the thousands of native Christians for whom Christ shed His blood on the heights of Calvary in case the Foreign Missionaries and their aid be dispensed with. He answered me that many would fall away from Christ and only a few stay round the banner of their Captain. Those who wish that the foreign aid should be removed, to my mind, do not remember the parable of the Tares. It is not our duty to pluck away the tares from the wheat. When the time comes the Master will order His servants to separate the tares from the wheat. Those who wish that the Indian Christians should be left alone to manage their own affairs practically wish to separate the tares from the wheat and thus destroy the Lord's vineyard which is, for so many years, being planted. Thirdly. They are ungrateful. We read in the Holy Scriptures the parable of the prodigal son. We run him down as an ungrateful son, who kicked and trampled down the kindness of his father. It appears to me that such advocates are far more ungrateful than the prodigal Son. He asked for his share and left his father's home, but, on the contrary, such advocates ask their father to leave the house and go away. Lastly. They think themselves more prudent than God Himself. God knows what is good for India. We must pray to God to send more labourers; for the vineyard is large but labourers are few. They in their pride and conceit think that the time has come for us Indian Christians to sever our connection with European Missionaries and launch our boat of Independence into the Sea of Self-support.

O God we pray to Thee to open the eyes of our brethren that they may see their mistake, and send more labourers to Thy vineyard in India and not to take away the few Thou hast graciously sent amongst us to work.

B. C. R.

Selection.

THE TONGUE.

"The boneless tongue, so small and weak,
Can crush and kill," declares the Greek.

"The tongue destroys a greater horde,"
The Turk asserts, "than does the sword."

The Persian proverb wisely saith,
"A lengthy tongue, an early death;"

Or sometimes takes this from instead:
"Don't let your tongue out off your head."

"The tongue can speak a word whose speed,"
Say the Chinese, "outstrips the steed;"

While Arabs sages this impart,
"The tongue's great storehouse is the heart,"

From Hebrew with the maxim sprung,
"Though feet should slip, ne'er let the tongue."

The sacred writer crowns the whole,
"Who keeps his tongue doth keep his soul."

Telegrams.

London, June 14—Midnight.

A Lieutenant of the United States navy has made a tour of observation in the harbour of Santiago de Cuba, and reports that the whole Spanish fleet is there.

Admiral Sampson telegraphs that the bodies of the American dead have been barbarously mutilated.

London, June 15.

The Spaniards unceasingly harass the Americans ashore at Guantanamo, greatly exhausting the latter, and the arrivals of further troops is anxiously awaited.

London, June 16.

The American Press Censorship to-day permitted the announcement that thirty-five transports left Tampa yesterday morning with thirteen men-of-war escorting. The destination of the expedition is not stated.

A second expedition has left San Francisco for Manila, and will be conveyed by men-of-war from Honolulu.

The American marines ashore at Guantanamo, aided by the insurgents, have routed four hundred Spaniards, killing forty. Only one American was wounded.

Calcutta, June 15.

Tuesday's returns give two plague seizures and two deaths.

Karachi, June 15.

Returns for the 15th show cases 11, deaths 10; totals to date, cases 2,887, deaths 2,262.

London, June 16.

The United States House of Representatives has passed, by 209 votes against 91, a resolution to annex Hawaii.

In the course of the debate, strong declarations were made in favour of seizing and retaining the Philippines, Cuba and Puerto Rico.

It is semi-officially stated in Berlin that the assembling of the German squadron at Manila in no wise implies the abandonment of German neutrality in the present war; the object of sending war ships there being to protect the large German interests in the Philippines.

Calcutta, June 16.

Returns for Wednesday show 6 seizures and 1 death, a Eurasian girl being among the former.

Eighty-five inoculations were performed yesterday, bringing the total to 1,386. All sections are now being inoculated.

Returns for the 16th show cases 14, deaths 11; totals to date, cases 2,901, deaths 2,273.

London, June 17.

Absolute silence reigns regarding the whereabouts of the American expedition under the command of General Shafter, which is reported to have left Tampa on Saturday, 11th instant.

The American war-ships bombarded Santiago for an hour yesterday morning, over five thousand projectiles being fired with the result of silencing a number of batteries.

The American dynamite cruiser "Vesuvius" fired three 250-pound charges of gun-cotton over the fortifications into the small bay where the Spanish torpedo vessels were lying, with what result is at present unknown, but one charge was seen to strike the island, tearing a huge hole in the earth.

London, June 17.

Reuter's special correspondent at Manila telegraphing on the 13th, says that the rebels are now in the suburbs of the capital, and that the inhabitants have taken refuge in the citadel.

The Captain-General of Manila proposed to capitulate at the council of war, at which proposal the members were furious.

The Captain-General thereupon resigned, and the Deputy Captain-General superseded him. The rebels are not molesting non-combatants.

The Commander of the German Squadron at Manila, having expressed a wish to receive the Spanish wounded aboard his ships, Admiral Dewey replied that only British mediation would be acceptable.

Admiral Blanco has finally refused the request of the Americans to exchange the prisoners who were captured by the Spanish when the ship "Merrimac" was sunk at the entrance to the harbour of Santiago.

London, June 18.

In Rome that Marquis di Rudini has announced in both Chambers that the Cabinet will resign, and wishing not to prejudice a grave question affecting public order, he requested the suspension of the sittings of both Houses, which was agreed to. The Premier declared that the only way to serve the country was to rally round the King. The wording of the announcement is much commented on in Europe.

London, June 19.

There are repeated rumours that Manila has fallen, and it is further stated that the Spaniards have transferred the capital to Iloilo.

The American transports have been sighted in Cuban waters. It is reported at Madrid that the American expedition from Tampa under General Shafter landed on Saturday near Santiago, which it is expected will be immediately attacked.

Karachi, June 19.

Returns for the 19th show cases 9, deaths 7; totals to date, cases 2,933; deaths 2,302.

Bombay, June 20.

There were six attacks reported on Saturday, but all were old cases which had been under enquiry. There were three deaths from plague. The figures yesterday were one seizure and two deaths.

Calcutta, June 19.

Darjeeling experienced a severe earthquake shock this morning, the oscillations being from north to south.

A manifesto, signed by thirty-five provincial associations and eighteen newspapers in the province of Catalonia, has been issued, which declares that immediate peace will alone prevent the ruin of Spain.

All the foreign residents are leaving Manila in neutral ships. Two more British war ships have been ordered to proceed to Manila.

The American Government has learned that the Cadiz fleet under Admiral Camara has returned to a Spanish port.

The United States transports, conveying General Shafter's army, have arrived off Santiago, but have found it difficult to effect a landing owing to the Spaniards lining fifteen miles of the shore, and it will be necessary to thoroughly shell the enemy's position before attempting to disembark troops.

Further despatches from Manila, dated the 17th instant, state that the insurgents have captured Delanga, the second town of importance in Manila Bay, and have taken four thousand Spanish and one thousand native prisoners.

London, June 20.

Fighting has taken place between Albanians and Servians. The latter pursued the Albanians to Berana, where they were met by a Turkish battery, which compelled the Servians to retire. Many were killed on both sides.

Karachi, June 20.

Returns for the 20th show cases 4, deaths 3. Totals to date, cases 2,937, deaths 2,305.

Calcutta, June 21.

A telegram from Midnapore tells of devastating floods. Villages have been swept away and numbers of people drowned, and great loss of property. The river Cossya in the course of the destruction through heavy rain. The country is flooded for miles around, all communication being cut off, as the rivers are unfordable.

Calcutta, June 21.

Saturday's returns show no seizures, but two deaths. Sunday's two seizures, one death.

Calcutta, June 21.

The Park-keeper at the Viceroy's Barrack-pore residence, Babu Chatterji by name, went for some decoits, who tried to get into his house on Saturday in a business-like fashion.

He speared one man in the abdomen, so that he died the same evening in the Barrack-pore Hospital. Three others bolted when a rifle was fired among them. They were subsequently arrested. The dying man declared it was all mistake. The Babu had speared him without just cause. An enquiry is being made.

London, June 21.

Reuter's special correspondent at Manila in despatch, dated 17th, says that General Monet, who was advancing to relieve the city from the north with 3,000 mixed troops, fell into an ambush. Fierce fighting ensued for three days, in which General Monet was killed, the native troops then joined the rebels and the surviving Spaniards, numbering 5,000, surrendered.

The correspondent also reports that during another engagement with the rebels, a battalion of native Militia, which was supposed to be particularly loyal, shot its officers and killed five but was eventually disarmed.

London, June 21.

Sirdar Kitchener with most of his officers has started for the front, and will not return till Omdurman falls. The Khalifa has decided to concentrate his forces ten miles to the north of Omdurman, and there awaits the arrival of the Anglo-Egyptian troops.

London, June 21.

The new British battleship "Albion" was successfully launched by the Duchess of York to-day at Blackwall, but the displacement of water caused a huge wave which overwhelmed the staging on which some 3,000 spectators, chiefly of the working class, had assembled to witness the ceremony. It is feared that sixty persons were drowned. Thirty four bodies have been recovered.

Calcutta, June 21.

Monday's returns show four plague seizures and four deaths.

Bombay, June 21.

There were only 2 attacks, including 1 old case under enquiry, and 1 death from plague yesterday; total deaths from all causes lower than in the two previous years.

Karachi, June 21.

Returns for the 21st show cases 6, deaths 6, totals to date, cases 2,943, deaths 2,311.

Bombay, June 22.

There were eight cases reported yesterday from plague, including one old one which had been under enquiry, and one death. The total mortality from all causes was 64, as against 85 on the corresponding date of last year, and 80 of the year before.

SUPPLEMENT.

Contributed articles on important themes and items of news will be thankfully received. All communications should be addressed to the Editor, Nur Afshan, Ludhiana.

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